

1930—Member, Planning Committee of White House Conference on Child Welfare; original member and president of Grand Rapids Rotary Club for two years, 1913-1915.

1910-1912—Secretary of the Michigan Automobile Association.

Memberships: Kent County Medical Society; Michigan State Medical Society; Fellow of the American Medical Association; Peninsular Club; Highlands Club; collaborating editor of the American Journal of Surgery; associate editor, Bulletin of the American Medical Association; ex-officio member, American Medical Association Board of Trustees.

### A NATUROPATHIC INITIATIVE WILL BE ON THE BALLOT AT THE STATE ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 6

*Naturopathic Petition Qualifies—The Chiropractic Petition Does Not.*—One of the ten initiative petitions which received more than 110,811 signatures, and which will be on the ballot on November 6, will be the "Naturopathic Act—Initiative." The proposed Chiropractic initiative petition was lacking in some six thousand votes and will not be voted on this year.

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*Every Member Should Study the Proposed Initiative Law.*—Because it sets up standards of licensure that are woefully out of harmony with modern-day concepts of scientific medicine and public health standards, the prompt and serious attention of all component county societies and members is called to the Naturopathic Initiative, a few of the paragraphs from which are presented on page 213 of this issue. More than 110,000 California citizens have attached their signatures to the lengthy petition, thus making it necessary for the electorate to decide whether it shall be transformed into binding law by vote of the people.

It is not our purpose here to discuss the deplorable features of this new expression of cultist legislation. We can only urge all members of the California Medical Association to read the excerpts to which space is given, and then to draw their own conclusions as to the significance and far-reaching effect of some of the mooted provisions.

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*Read Also the Following Critical Comments.*—In addition, we ask that every member read what a colleague—who has had an exceptional experience and a broad knowledge of licensure matters—has to say upon the subject. From one of his letters we quote the following:

"This proposed act is evidently modeled after the State Bar Act of California. No act of Legislature can change its provisions. Section 3, paragraph 2, states: 'No law now or hereafter enacted shall in any way qualify, regulate, restrict or prohibit the State Association from fully carrying out and effectuating all of the purposes and provisions herein contained.' The Board of Governors provided in the proposed act are not answerable to any state authority. They will handle their own funds and their own affairs in their own way.

"Read in Section 63 the unlimited license which will be granted thereunder, which license will entitle the

holder thereof to 'all rights and privileges of any and all other practicing physicians.'

"Read in Section 2, Subdivision 4, the definition of naturopathy, and then draw your own conclusions as to the varieties of practice which will be permitted under the phrase in Section 41, 'five or more branches of naturopathy.'

"Section 41 indicates that these proposed naturopathic licenses will be easily obtained, because the statement is made therein that any person who is a member of the Naturopathic Association and who has been practicing naturopathy legally or illegally for five years will be eligible for a license for a fee of \$25.

"Section 62, Subdivision (e), indicates an intent to dispense narcotics.

"Section 68 prohibits the State Board of Medical Examiners or any other board or agency from granting a drugless practitioner certificate, *i. e.*, this initiative proposes to repeal that portion of the Medical Practice Act which relates to a 'drugless practitioner.'

"Section 67, which exempts the osteopathic act, conflicts with Section 68, because the osteopathic initiative act created a board of examiners with power to administer provisions of the Medical Practice Act, which includes the granting of drugless practitioner certificates. The proposed initiative will take this function from the Board of Osteopathic Examiners.

"Section 67 also exempts the chiropractic initiative; hence, the Board of Chiropractic Examiners will continue to issue licenses to practice chiropractic. Licentiates of said Board of Chiropractic Examiners will be entitled to qualify for naturopathic certificates under the proposed initiative. Confusion will then arise as to jurisdiction. Should the Board of Chiropractic Examiners revoke its license issued to the holder of these dual licenses, the individual can continue to practice under his naturopathic license, and vice versa.

"The initiative is most conflicting, entirely unnecessary, and will further add to the now existing confusion relative to the practice of the healing art in the State of California."

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*Laws of Low Standards Are a Reflection on Present-Day Civilization.*—After reading the above, and also the excerpts already referred to, it must be evident to every physician who loves his profession, and who is loyal to the standards of scientific medicine, that such a proposed law is an invitation to battle.

If this naturopathic law, among other things,

Made obligatory an adequate preliminary education (consisting, say, of a four-year high school and at least one year of full collegiate work, but with no provision for so-called "equivalent training" that can be made to mean nothing, if an examining board so interprets or decrees), and for a thorough four-year course of professional training; and

If this naturopathic expression of so-called drugless healing really limited itself to that type of healing (instead of including "minor surgery," the term "minor surgery" being evasive because of lack of legal limitations); and

If it did not contain other provisions that are little less than absolutely contrary to those fundamental standards which (in order to give proper protection to citizens) all healing-art groups, in the light of present-day scientific knowledge, should faithfully observe;

Then, indeed, it might perhaps be a matter of only ordinary moment, if this proposed act became a law in California.

There is no objection to any citizen choosing his own healing-art practitioner, but it is supposedly a primary obligation of the State to license, as healing-art practitioners—no matter to what so-called school belonging—only such citizens who have had adequate training and possess knowledge that is not a travesty on modern-day science and civilization.

It is an evidence of the chaotic condition of our present period that legislation is thus seriously proposed which is not only in conflict with the fundamental civic rights of citizens, but which is a distinct step backward from the scientific knowledge which the world today possesses.

#### FORTHCOMING STATE ELECTION—HOW COMPONENT COUNTY SOCIETIES SHOULD ORGANIZE

*Plan of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.*—On page 138 of the August CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE will be found a brief article, from the "Bulletin" of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, outlining the manner in which that component county society proposed to keep in touch with legislators and prospective legislation having to do with the public health. What the Los Angeles Association is doing along this line should be likewise done by every other county society in California; and because of the importance of well-planned and united action, the officers and members of each county unit in the State are urgently requested to organize in a manner similar to that described in the article referred to.

For there are probably few things one can do, more meaningless or inconsistent than to indulge in criticism of noxious laws inimical to the standards of public health and scientific medicine when those who make such criticisms fail in their own individual civic professional obligations, through almost complete inaction at the elections of legislators and at the voting upon initiative measures.

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*Effective Organization Is Not a Complicated Problem.*—It is such a comparatively simple matter to make the influence of members of the medical profession felt during legislative campaigns if a system such as that which is in operation in the Los Angeles and several other county societies in California is put into operation.

The article referred to is worthy of several readings. It is to be hoped, therefore, that at the first meeting of every county society, after this issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE reaches its readers, a report will be made to the members on the status of organization work in their respective districts. If the elected officers of a county unit are laggard or indifferent to their responsibilities in this matter, individual members who wish to do their part should feel free to form a committee, either voluntary or as an adjunct of the Public Health League, so that adequate steps may be taken to contact legislative candidates of their district, to learn the reactions of these

legislative and other candidates to public health work; and to carry on an educational campaign of patients, friends, and fellow citizens concerning the real significance of laws such, for instance, as the proposed Naturopathic Act, which is commented upon elsewhere.

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*Every Member Should Be Alive to His Responsibilities and Do His Part.*—With earnest and united coöperation all things are possible. Some of the issues facing the profession are of most serious import and, if not properly met, may wreck havoc with much that has taken years of loyal endeavor to build up. So read again, if you would earnestly assume your share of these duties, the article on page 138 in the August CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, and resolve then and there to do your part, and after that proceed, with other colleagues, to do it.

#### EDITORIAL COMMENT\*

##### FETAL TISSUE IMMUNITY

It is a well established fact that the majority of infants under six months of age are statistically immune to measles, diphtheria, scarlet fever and several other infectious diseases. The conventional explanation of this infantile insusceptibility postulates that it is a passive immunity due to transplacental transmission of maternal antibodies plus their postpartum transfer in colostrum or milk. Like so many conventional plausibilities, however, this theory is not without its paradoxes and inconsistencies. Instances are on record of infants demonstrably immune to scarlet fever or diphtheria, whose mothers are demonstrably susceptible to the same infectious agents.<sup>1</sup> New-born serums occasionally neutralize poliomyelitis virus *in vitro*, the corresponding maternal serums being without demonstrable virucidal effects.<sup>2</sup> Cutaneous tests show that less than 2 per cent of all children under two months of age are skin-reactive to Staphylococcus aureus vaccine. Fully 95 per cent of all mothers are susceptible to this toxic antigen.<sup>3</sup>

To account for such apparent paradoxes recent theorists have postulated the existence of a non-specific "fetal tissue immunity" persisting during the earlier months of extra-uterine life. This theory has been apparently confirmed by laboratory studies. Dr. E. L. Burky<sup>4</sup> of Johns Hopkins University, for example, tested rabbits of different ages with highly toxic staphylococcus

\* This department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE presents editorial comment by contributing members on items of medical progress, science and practice, and on topics from recent medical books or journals. An invitation is extended to all members of the California and Nevada Medical Associations to submit brief editorial discussions suitable for publication in this department. No presentation should be over five hundred words in length.

1 Dreyfus-Sée, G.: Arch. d. méd. d. enf., 33:16, 1930.

2 Aycock, W. L., and Kramer, S. D.: J. Exper. Med., 52:457, 1930.

3 Kobak, O. J., and Pilot, I.: Proc. Soc. Exper. Biol. and Med., 28:584, 1931.

4 Burky, E. L.: J. Immunol., 24:127, 1933.